

# Major Work Stoppages

## Technical Note

**M**ajor work stoppages are those involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting a full shift or longer, and include worker-initiated strikes, as well as lockouts by employers. A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of workers (not necessarily members of a union) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of disputes, the Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics; both are included in the term "work stoppages."

Data for the number of workers involved and days idle include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not account for secondary idleness as a result of material or service shortages. The number of workers idled in any stoppage represents the maximum number of workers idled during the reference period for that stoppage.

In the monthly tables, days idle during the reference period for any one stoppage is calculated by adding the number of days lost by each affected worker during the month from the beginning date through the ending date of the stoppage. In addition, days idle is shown as a total for all stoppages in effect during the month.

In the historical table, cumulative figures for days idle for the year or year-to-date are shown for various refer-

ence periods. In addition, days idle is shown as a percent of estimated working time for all stoppages that occurred during the reference period. Total days idle is the sum of the days idle for all stoppages in effect during the reference period. Estimated working time is computed by multiplying total employment during the reference period by the number of days typically worked by most employees during that period. (Total employment excludes private households, forestry, and fishery employees, and is taken from *Employment and Earnings* published by the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics.) The percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the total days idle for all stoppages occurring during the reference period by the estimated working time for all employees in the economy during that period.

### Additional information

For more detailed data, write to Work Stoppages, Division of Compensation Data Analysis and Planning, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Room 4175, Washington, DC 20212-0001.

Telephone: (202) 691-6282

E-mail: [Sleemi\\_F@bls.gov](mailto:Sleemi_F@bls.gov)

Internet: <http://stats.bls.gov/cbahome.htm>

TABLE D-1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1951-99

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved <sup>1</sup>		Days idle <sup>2</sup>	
	Beginning in period	In effect during period	Beginning in period (thousands)	In effect during period (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup>
1951 .....	415	-	1,462	-	15,070	0.12
1952 .....	470	-	2,746	-	48,820	.38
1953 .....	437	-	1,623	-	18,130	.14
1954 .....	265	-	1,075	-	16,630	.13
1955 .....	363	-	2,055	-	21,180	.16
1956 .....	287	-	1,370	-	26,840	.20
1957 .....	279	-	887	-	10,340	.07
1958 .....	332	-	1,587	-	17,900	.13
1959 .....	245	-	1,381	-	60,850	.43
1960 .....	222	-	896	-	13,260	.09
1961 .....	195	-	1,031	-	10,140	.07
1962 .....	211	-	793	-	11,760	.08
1963 .....	181	-	512	-	10,020	.07
1964 .....	246	-	1,183	-	16,220	.11
1965 .....	268	-	999	-	15,140	.10
1966 .....	321	-	1,300	-	16,000	.10
1967 .....	381	-	2,192	-	31,320	.18
1968 .....	392	-	1,855	-	35,367	.20
1969 .....	412	-	1,576	-	29,397	.16
1970 .....	381	-	2,468	-	52,761	.29
1971 .....	298	-	2,516	-	35,538	.19
1972 .....	250	-	975	-	16,764	.09
1973 .....	317	-	1,400	-	16,260	.08
1974 .....	424	-	1,796	-	31,809	.16
1975 .....	235	-	965	-	17,563	.09
1976 .....	231	-	1,519	-	23,962	.12
1977 .....	298	-	1,212	-	21,258	.10
1978 .....	219	-	1,006	-	23,774	.11
1979 .....	235	-	1,021	-	20,409	.09
1980 .....	187	-	795	-	20,844	.09
1981 .....	145	-	729	-	16,908	.07
1982 .....	96	-	656	-	9,061	.04
1983 .....	81	-	909	-	17,461	.08
1984 .....	62	-	376	-	8,499	.04
1985 .....	54	-	324	-	7,079	.03
1986 .....	69	-	533	-	11,861	.05
1987 .....	46	-	174	-	4,481	.02
1988 .....	40	-	118	-	4,381	.02
1989 .....	51	-	452	-	16,996	.07
1990 .....	44	-	185	-	5,926	.02
1991 .....	40	-	392	-	4,584	.02
1992 .....	35	-	364	-	3,989	.01
1993 .....	35	-	182	-	3,981	.01
1994 .....	45	-	322	-	5,020	.02
1995 .....	31	-	192	-	5,771	.02
1996 .....	37	-	273	-	4,889	.02
1997 .....	29	-	339	-	4,497	.01
1998 .....	34	-	387	-	5,116	.02
1998 Through October .....	28	29	375.9	375.9	4,784.4	.02
1999 Through October <sup>P</sup> .....	15	19	69.6	77.4	1,865.2	.01

<sup>1</sup> Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the reference period.

<sup>2</sup> Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the reference period.

<sup>3</sup> Agricultural and government employees are included in the calculation

of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-2. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, August 1999<sup>P</sup>**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
Continental General Tire Company Charlotte, NC Steelworkers .....		9/21/98		1,400	30,800
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation LA, OH, and WA Steelworkers .....		10/1/98		3,000	66,000
Board of Education of the School District of the City of Detroit Detroit, MI Detroit Federation of Teachers (AFT) .....		8/30/99		11,000	22,000
Stoppages beginning in month .....	1			11,000	
Stoppages in effect in month .....	3			15,400	118,800

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-3. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, September 1999<sup>P</sup>**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
Continental General Tire Company Charlotte, NC Steelworkers .....		9/21/98	9/19/99	1,400	16,800
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation LA, OH, and WA Steelworkers .....		10/1/98		3,000	63,000
Board of Education of the School District of the City of Detroit Detroit, MI Detroit Federation of Teachers (AFT) .....		8/30/99	9/7/99	11,000	44,000
Atlantic City casino hotels Atlantic City, NJ Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees .....		9/15/99	9/16/99	12,000	24,000
Bruno's Incorporated Alabama United Food and Commercial Workers ....		9/26/99		7,100	28,400
Stoppages beginning in month .....	2			19,100	
Stoppages in effect in month .....	5			34,500	176,200

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
P = Preliminary data.

TABLE D-4. **Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, October 1999<sup>P</sup>**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Number of stoppages	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
Kaiser Aluminum Corporation LA, OH, and WA Steelworkers .....		10/1/98		3,000	60,000
Bruno's Incorporated Alabama United Food and Commercial Workers ....		9/26/99	10/2/99	7,100	7,100
Stoppages beginning in month .....	0			0	
Stoppages in effect in month .....	2			10,100	67,100

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.  
P = Preliminary data.